



# Buzzwords ...



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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

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## HIVES AND UNPAID LEVIES

Each year at about this time the NBA executive reviews the number of unpaid hive levies and membership subscriptions for the current term, and considers any applications for deferral of levies.

During last May's executive meeting it was rather disturbing to learn there were 146 beekeepers in default of their levies, representing an estimated 37,202 hives, or around \$17,850. This of course means they are now also due for payment of the 10% additional penalty.

The usual course of action in these cases is for the executive to go through the unpaid levies list, and try to identify as many as possible whom we know may have moved location, sold their hives, or for any other likely

reason have failed to pay. Non-payments which can't be explained in any such way are referred to the Association's solicitor for legal collection proceedings. This usually brings the desired response, but costs the association quite a lot in legal fees.

One of the more common explanations we receive from defaulters is that they "have already told the MAF about selling my hives" - or something similar. So it seems there's some misunderstanding about the connection between the NBA's hive levy statement and the MAF's statement of inspection for the apiary register.

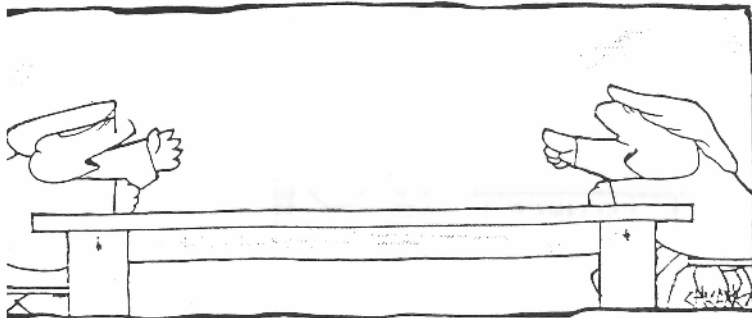
Firstly, there is very little direct connection between the two records at present. The information you send to MAF in your S of I is confidential to MAF. The NBA executive cannot get their hands on this detailed information at all.

What the NBA does receive once a year, is a list of names and addresses of those beekeepers who have indicated to MAF that they own or operate 50 or more beehives. We don't get told how many hives the beekeeper has declared to MAF - just the list of names. These are the beekeepers we send our annual hive levy statement to each December, for completion of the statutory declaration and payment of levies due under the Hive Levy Act.

If you inform MAF that your hive ownership has changed in some way, the information will not reach the NBA secretary until you complete the next year's hive levy statement, which could be some months after the event. In the meantime, you might get hassled with follow-up letters or even legal action from the NBA solicitors.

Conversely, if you tell the NBA secretary of your changes, this information will not reach the MAF at all - there is simply no mechanism to carry this out at present. You will probably then start getting hassled by the MAF registrar of apiaries for failing to return your statement of inspection!

The best way to avoid these problems, and make life easier for all concerned is this: IF YOUR HIVE OWNERSHIP SITUATION CHANGES, TELL BOTH THE MAF AND THE NBA SECRETARY. And as has been stated before, if you experience particular difficulties in meeting your hive levy in any year, then the cost of a letter and stamp to request a deferral of payment can save considerable time and trouble for everyone.



The NBA hive levy records are now maintained on a very efficient computer recording system, which enables us to keep right up to date with unpaid levies and changes when notified. However, as for any system, the information coming out is only as good as the information going in. This input relies heavily upon you as beekeepers for accuracy and efficient operation.

## ... AND THE COMMODITY LEVIES BILL AND MAF SERVICES?

For those of you waiting with bated breath for the introduction of the new apiary fee under the Commodity Levies Bill, you can breathe easily for a while more it seems.

There is absolutely no hope of this legislation reaching parliament this side of the next general elections. We were told this by both the Director General of MAF, Dr Russell Ballard, and the opposition spokesman on

agriculture, John Falloon, at the May executive meeting.

With something like 240 different pieces of legislation awaiting action at present, this particular bill is well down the priority list. While that may be good news for our personal finances, it is bad news for our efforts to establish the apiary register and disease inspection systems on a sound financial footing. The danger is yet further losses of MAF services, unless the government can be persuaded to maintain the funding for MAF at least at present levels.

There has been some progress made on this recently, with recognition now being given by the Minister of Agriculture of the essential need for agricultural surveillance, which includes protection for the beekeeping industry. There are also indications that the South Island may again see someone appointed to at least one apicultural management position shortly - a long overdue replacement for the loss of four advisors over the past few years.

One encouraging indication for those who follow the opinion polls was given by John Falloon during his visit to executive. He enjoys sixth or seventh position in the opposition shadow cabinet, as opposed to the present minister's 13th position. Mr Falloon also indicated that the opposition is essentially in agreement with the Commodity Levies Bill, and would not oppose its introduction to the House.

So now, if they can just take care of the other 239 bits of legislation before the elections ...

*Allen McCaw, NBA President*

## ELECTION RESULTS

North Island: One vacancy, only one nomination, Gerard Martin is duly elected.

South Island: Two vacancies, only one nomination, Frances Trewby is duly elected. Following the rules of the NBA, the executive will appoint a person holding suitable residential qualifications to the other vacancy. Anyone interested in volunteering for this position should contact an executive member or the NBA secretary.

Excerpts from the candidates' election notes:

Gerard Martin is married and lives at Galatea in the eastern Bay of Plenty. He began commercial beekeeping in 1953 in conjunction with furniture manufacturing, based at Takapuna and packing comb honey for export and local markets. In 1962 he took over a beekeeping business in Galatea.

Gerard says "I have served the last two years as a member of the NBA and during this time nothing has happened to change my views on the funding of the registration and hive inspection. Until legislation is passed the NBA is unable to proceed.

"The honey market at the moment is still very vulnerable. Although honey prices have moved upwards there is still room for improvement.

"There is a need for a coordinated approach to marketing to the benefit of producers. How this should be done will need a lot of input by both producers and packers.

"There have been major changes which affect us all. More than ever the NBA needs to be more positive and aggressive and with the help of beekeepers lead us into a more brighter and positive future."

Frances Trewby has had seven seasons commercial beekeeping experience in three beekeeping businesses in both the North and South Islands. She is currently employed as a beekeeper in Southland.

Frances says: "I consider the main concern of the industry must be money for honey and associated bee products. My employment depends on the stability of the beekeeping industry - thus I have a strong commitment to the improvement of our industry. If better beekeeping, better marketing is our industry motto, it's time we worked towards an improvement in both. We must also aim to get best value from the hive levy dollar".

She has completed a NZ Certificate in Beekeeping, a BA in Geography and holds a Trained Secondary Teacher's Certificate. Frances says "I have chosen to work in the beekeeping industry, and I am able to devote time and energy to the NBA Executive if elected".

*NBA executive*



## AFB IN CANTERBURY

Over 200 hives in North Canterbury went up in flames in recent weeks, as beekeepers grappled with an outbreak of American foulbrood.

The hives belonged to seven beekeepers - two semicommercial (200-800 hives) and the others hobbyists. They were located between Christchurch and Waiau.

Canterbury NBA branch president David Penrose said that over \$20,000 worth of gear has been burnt, and more is at risk.

The South Island has lost its four apicultural advisory officers as a result of MAF restructuring. "MAF has put the control of the disease squarely on the shoulders of beekeepers", Mr Penrose said.

Orchardists are also concerned about such disease outbreaks. Their national organisation, the Fruitgrowers' Federation, is lending its support to the NBA's efforts to upgrade MAF's South Island apicultural servicing to an acceptable level.

*NBA executive*

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BILL

Remember the Resource Management Bill, discussed in the May and February issues? Seems it's been caught up in the legislative log jam (or is it a "Clyde Dam"? ) that we're afflicted with before every election.

The travelling circus which is hearing submissions was to have hit the road in February. The select committee that was to start work in May won't now meet until 1 October - after the elections. Seminars on the bill will be held in Wellington and Christchurch from September through until May 1991. The NBA office has details.

*NBA executive*

## BEEKEEPING WORK WANTED

As the iron curtain gets cut up for scrap metal, these requests are coming in from further afield. The NBA has received a charmingly quaint piece of writing from the Soviet Union, from a person who says he is a beekeeper and "bees are my life-work".

He's looking for work for this coming season, has studied beekeeping at two institutes and has "a large apiary". He also reports that "I am an easy and equable man, because it is such my character".

Anyone interested should contact Eugene Plastinin, 56 Flat, 23 Pervomayskay Street, T.Nova Kakhovno, Kherson Region, USSR.

I don't know how many of these requests - and there are quite a few - ever get answered. It's really a pig in a poke - you might get a great worker and keen beekeeper, or you might get a tourist who doesn't know a hive tool from a hive lid.

But some New Zealand beekeepers take the plunge and find they're employing keen workers and very pleasant people. The two Israeli students we advertised in last September's issue turned out to be a great asset to their employers. The contacts built up through this overseas exposure also do our industry no harm at all.

Remember also the IAEA beekeeper exchange scheme - for overseas visitors working here or our young people going away on working holidays. The IAEA is the International Agricultural Exchange Association, a non-profit organisation which sets up agricultural exchanges for young people. Started in 1963, the organisation has gone from strength to strength and now places trainees in over 18 foreign countries.

Young people seeking an overseas agricultural job join the organisation, pay a fee which includes airfares and administration, and are then placed with a host family in the country of their choice.

Host families provide meals and accommodation, the job, and a trainee allowance.

Placements are for six to nine months and the best thing is that IAEA handles all Labour Department and work permit hassles.

Several beekeeping enterprises in the South Island have used this programme very successfully. They find the trainees bright, motivated workers and really enjoy the experience they get from the cultural exchange.

If you're considering hiring overseas people, or you think that one of your kids might benefit from a year overseas, contact:

IAEA  
Armstrong House  
PO Box 328  
Whakatane  
Phone (076) 70 086

MAF Tauranga

## IBRA: AN ORGANISATION FOR YOU

You can tap into the world's premier organisation for beekeeping information, by joining IBRA.

IBRA is the International Bee Research Association. It's an educational and scientific trust, which is funded by income from members' subscriptions, and from the sale of publications and other services.

The world's most comprehensive information and advisory service is provided by IBRA. You can get access to it in a number of ways:

- \* Members receive the quarterly magazine *Bee World*.
- \* For an extra subscription, members can also get the journals *Apicultural Abstracts* and *Journal of Apicultural Research*.
- \* *Apicultural Abstracts* summarize practically everything that's published on bees and beekeeping, anywhere in the world. Members can order photocopies of the complete articles at half price.
- \* IBRA's amazing publications catalogue lists hundreds of books, pamphlets, posters and audio-visual material.
- \* IBRA have access to computer searches of information banks.

Your organization, the NBA, supports IBRA through its membership. This gives you access to the IBRA journals in the NBA library.

You could also choose to support IBRA more directly by becoming a member yourself. Students of apiculture can receive all three journals for the cost of an ordinary subscription, if they supply a signed certificate from their supervisor.

IBRA has two representatives in New Zealand. Contact them if you're interested in membership, or want to order

books and other material.

Peter Brunt  
c/- Nelson Polytechnic  
Private Bag  
Nelson  
Phone (054) 47 796

Andrew Matheson  
197B Grange Road  
Tauranga  
Phone (075) 66 422

## PACKAGE AND QUEEN EXPORTS

Figures for package and queen imports into Canada from Australia and New Zealand, released recently by Agriculture Canada, are as follows:

	1988	1989
NZ		
Packages	13 305	12 148
Queens	25 965	32 780
Aus		
Packages	1 200	960
Queens	41 403	32 900

## PAPER WASPS IN THE SOUTH

Asian paper wasps have reached the South Island, the latest Department of Conservation national wasp postal survey has found.

Jocelyn Tilley, of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research land resources division, said nests of the wasp had been found in Nelson, confirming fears that the wasp was breeding in the South Island.

A department entomologist, Mr Mike Meads, said the wasps were also resident in the Wellington area.

Asian paper wasps were first recorded in New Zealand near Auckland.

## BUZZWORDS IS ...

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